Introduction to The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

**Dystopia**

Definition: An imagined place in which everything is unpleasant or bad, typically a totalitarian and repressive state

Origin: The word dystopia comes from two Greek words, one meaning “hard or bad” and another meaning “place or landscape.”

The opposite of a dystopia is a utopia. Before you read, think about what you would see, hear, or do in your personal perfect world (utopia) and in your own nightmare world (dystopia).

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| **My Utopia** | **My Dystopia** |
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**Dystopian Novels**

Dystopian novels tell a story that takes place in an imagined world, but they often teach us lessons about our own world. As you read The Hunger Games, pay attention to what Suzanne Collins tells us about Katniss’s experiences, and how her experiences can inform our understandings of the world we live in.

Pay attention to how Panem is organized in the following ways:

* **Politics: Who has power? Who makes decisions? Is it fair? Whose voices are heard?**
* **Cultural Values: What do people care about? Is it the same everywhere?**
* **Economics: Who has access to resources? Who works the hardest? Who has free time?**
* **Environment: How are plants, animals, and natural resources treated?**

Track these themes with your Post-Its!

**Where is the world is District 12?**

The Hunger Games is set sometime in the future. In the story, all of North America is ruled by one nation called Panem. Just like the United States is divided into states, Panem is divided into Districts. Track the information we learn about each district, then use this knowledge to place them on your map.

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| **District** | **Geography**   * Are there mountains? * Is it near water? * What other Districts are close? | **Industry**   * What work are people engaged in? * Do they rely on natural resources? | **People/Culture**   * Which important characters come from this District? * What do they value? |
| The Capitol |  |  |  |
| District 1 |  |  |  |
| District 2 |  |  |  |
| District 3 |  |  |  |
| District 4 |  |  |  |
| District 5 |  |  |  |
| District 6 |  |  |  |
| District 7 |  |  |  |
| District 8 |  |  |  |
| District 9 |  |  |  |
| District 10 |  |  |  |
| District 11 |  |  |  |
| District 12 |  |  |  |